

ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINE





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ABINGDON & FARINGDON DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

List of Members for 1949

ABINGDON BOROUGH

Mrs. A. L. Challenor, Waysmeet, Faringdon Road, Abingdon.
Dr. G. F. O'Connor, Helenstowe, Ock Street, Abingdon.

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

Lt. Col. S. T. Austin, O.B.E., The White House, Shippon, nr. Abingdon.
Dr. H. A. Dempsey, 78 Southern By-Pass, Botley, Oxford.
Mr. A. J. Dick, Manor Lodge, Sunningwell, nr. Abingdon.
Mr. H. E. L. Porter, The House-on-the-Green, Sutton Courtenay, nr. Abingdon.

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

Mrs. E. B. Arkell, Bourton End, Shrivenham.
Mr. F. Carter, Coxwell Street, Faringdon.
Mrs. W. Colledge, Stallpits, Shrivenham.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mrs. Beavis, The Walnuts, Ashbury, nr. Swindon.
Mr. D. W. Lansdown, Hatford House, Faringdon.

Clerk: Mr. G. V. Spooner, Council Offices, 60 Bath Street, Abingdon.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

Norman Parfit, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.(Oxon), D.P.H.(Lond.).
The Abbey House, Abingdon (Telephone 851)

Sanitary Inspectors:

Abingdon Borough

Gifford Saffin, F.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.,
The Abbey House, Abingdon. (Telephone 851)

Abingdon Rural

Chief Sanitary Inspector: T. E. Upton, M.S.I.A.,
60 Bath Street, Abingdon, (Telephone 361)

Deputy Chief S.I.: C. Cook, M.S.I.A.

Additional S.I.: T. G. Evans, M.S.I.A.

Faringdon Rural

H. O'Connor, M.S.I.A.,
Council Offices, Faringdon. (Telephone 2296)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE ABINGDON & FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT HEALTH COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1949.

I took up my duties in this area in March, 1949. During the preceding 21 months these duties had been carried out by either Dr. Costobadie from Newbury, or Dr. Baird from Reading, each of whom were busy enough with their other duties. Difficulties arising from the extreme unsuitability of the existing office premises in Stert Street were soon increased by the promotion and departure of the experienced clerk. In the Autumn through the great kindness of Mr. Nicholson, Town Clerk of Abingdon, and with a gracious welcome from the Borough Council and its officers we moved our office to the Abbey House, Abingdon, on 1st November.

One of the first tasks I set myself after arrival was to reduce the amount of unnecessary filling up of forms, record keeping and duplication of work which I found in existence.

By the end of 1949 I had reduced the number of books used by Practitioners for notifying infectious diseases from 6, 12 or even more to one single book, which embraced all those previously in use as well as a new form for notifying poliomyelitis ordained by the Ministry of Health in December, 1949.

I discontinued the keeping of records of all notified infectious diseases in each Sanitary Inspector's office. By arranging for all these notifications to be sent direct to my office, the delay, extra work and double record keeping in each office that had been the practice in the past, was eliminated.

A certain amount of visiting by Sanitary Inspectors of the houses where minor children's infections had occurred, with its attendant questioning of the mother and filling up of a detailed form, was also stopped with full agreement of all concerned as to its needlessness.

A further practice in these cases, that has persisted in many areas long after its value has been scientifically disproved, is the 'disinfection' of rooms or houses after the occurrence of a case. This we have mostly discontinued, except for tuberculosis which remains the one important and common disease in which disinfection is clearly worthwhile.

The year 1949 was in most respects a healthy year, more healthy than 1948 and much more healthy than 1938. The Summary tables in the earlier part of the report show in almost all cases rates better

than the average for England and Wales. For instance the birth rate was higher whereas the death rate and the infant mortality rate were lower, both by about one third.

As far as a comparison of this area with the County is concerned the latest figures were published while the bulk of this report was in the press, in the Annual Report for 1948 of the Berkshire County Medical Officer. They show that for the 10 years, 1938—1947, Abingdon Borough had the lowest crude death and the lowest infant mortality rate of the 7 Berkshire Urban Districts, Abingdon Rural District had the lowest crude death rate and Faringdon and Abingdon Rural Districts had the two lowest infant mortality rates of the 11 rural districts of Berkshire.

TUBERCULOSIS

The really disquieting figures however are those for Tuberculosis which continues to be much more important than all the other infectious or communicable diseases put together.

In this area 64 new cases of Pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and of these a large proportion were in the prime of life. This number is 17 more than would have been expected from the rate prevailing in England and Wales.

The only consolation to be found is that if the rate for Oxford City were applied to our population it would give 14 more notifications than we actually had. We must hope that these high rates may be partly accounted for by the early, and so favourable, detection of cases by our General Practitioners and by the Mass Radiography Unit which operated in certain large Oxford firms during the year.

We all tend to hope that early detection and long and thorough treatment will end in cure of our particular cases but the fact remains that in the country as a whole this disease kills quite a high percentage of its victims within 5 years of its detection.

But as a nation we have grown so accustomed to T.B. that we will not pay the price of getting rid of it. For there is no question that T.B. could be reduced to insignificance within 20 years if we, as a nation, would even double our present attack on it. Before that is likely to happen we must throw off our fear of facing T.B. facts in the confidence that the spread of existing knowledge followed by determination, can rid us of this curse.

Among these facts the most encouraging is that most adults have already been infected with T.B. and have cured themselves so effectively that only small signs of it can be detected by post mortem study.

Secondly, about half of those known to be suffering from active T.B. of the lungs are holding their own against the disease to such an extent that they are not at present a danger to others and are what are called 'closed' cases. However their condition demands serious and continued care to save them passing into the third and dangerous stage when the disease spreads in their lungs and may be spread to other people.

This smaller number of 'open' cases is of vital importance. They should be given sufficient sanatorium treatment to keep them isolated until they are no longer infectious. Isolation at home, though often much cheaper and more pleasant, is rarely effective as isolation, because not taken seriously.

POLIOMYELITIS

In contrast to the complacency with which the constant widespread epidemic of Tuberculosis is regarded is the grossly exaggerated alarm that spreads when Infantile Paralysis occurs.

For instance the B.B.C. commits the incredible folly of announcing on the 9 p.m. news that a man has died of Polio in the Isle of Wight and next morning I have to re-assure people in the town and in a small village not to cancel their holidays on that account, while the Isle receives thousands of cancellations.

A wider knowledge of the following facts should allay much of this anxiety.

The cases are few and severe cases very few. Even in 1947, the year of the largest epidemic this country has ever had, the cases of polio notified were one eighth of those of T.B. and deaths from polio were only one thirtieth of those from T.B.

The large majority of cases make a complete recovery with no paralysis remaining. Even those left with varying degrees of paralysis have their minds quite unaffected—for example—President Roosevelt.

For every case noticed scores of us carry the germ (virus) in our bodies without ill effect. What we don't know is why the one case occurs while the scores are not affected. Hence any attempts to avoid the spread of the virus in the present state of our knowledge are a waste of time and trouble.

Actual close contacts of a case may however be wise to take two precautions during the succeeding fortnight. These would much diminish the severity of an attack which they may possibly be incubating. They are:—

(1) If they develop any symptoms such as headache, sore throat, fever, pains in the limbs or back, to go to bed and let their Doctor know.

(2) To avoid any exhausting exercise.

SCHOOL MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

All the tables and statistics in this report are confined to those activities of the three Local Authorities which in greater or lesser degree contribute to the health of their populations.

Nothing is included about that half of my work which is on behalf of the Berkshire County Council, the major part of which takes me into schools to examine some 3,000 children.

However it is appropriate here to stress certain points which need to be more widely understood.

The School Medical Service differs fundamentally from the National Health Service mainly in that it is primarily detective and preventive whereas the National Health Service is largely diagnostic and curative.

The School Medical Officer examines children of school age in order to detect variations from health in their early stages, usually before child or parent is aware of them, and in order to prevent them from developing into illness or defect. To this end each child is, by law, to be examined at least three times (in Berkshire 4 times) during the school years.

These times are: (1) at School entrance, age 5; (2) during the last year at primary school, age 10 to 11; (3) during the last year at secondary school, age 14; and (4) (in Berkshire) at age 7 or 8. In addition any child selected by a Head teacher or found at Medical Inspection by School Nurse or Medical Officer to need it may be seen as often as necessary. Any child found to require treatment is referred to his own family doctor and any child found to need reference to a Specialist is so referred, but always after informing and with the approval of the family Doctor.

FOOD HYGIENE

In the last month of the year the Ministry of Food issued their suggestions for Model Bye-laws. First steps were immediately taken to secure their ultimate adoption by each of the three Authorities of this area.

In conclusion I would like to express my sincere gratitude to three groups of people who have made my work so pleasant and worth-while by their consistent friendliness and helpfulness. Chief of these, of course, are the Sanitary Inspectors and other colleagues whose great industry and efficiency is evidenced by most of the pages which follow. Then there are the many Councillors and General Practitioners in the area with whom relations have been so cordial and finally Dr. Mackenzie Wintle, Dr. Baird and Dr. Huddy, whose advice and encouragement have been so frequently sought and so generously given.

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN PARFIT,
Medical Officer of Health.

AREA AND POPULATION

The following table shows the area of each district with the estimated population at the middle of 1949.

District	Area in Acres	Est. Pop.	Persons per Acre
Abingdon Borough	1,713	10,330	6.03
Abingdon Rural District	41,225	23,490	.56
Faringdon Rural District	59,596	12,240	.22
Totals	102,534	46,060	.45

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The following table shows the totals of Births and Deaths and the rates per 1,000 of population. Rates for 1948 are in parenthesis.

District	Births	Birth rate per 1000 of Pop.	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 of Pop.
Abingdon Borough	186	18.0 (17.6)	113	10.9 (9.5)
Abingdon Rural	444	19.3 (18.8)	168	7.3 (7.3)
Faringdon Rural	263	21.4 (23.7)	105	8.6 (9.2)
Totals	893	19.6 (19.0)	368	8.5 (8.4)
England and Wales		16.7 (17.9)		11.7 (10.8)

CAUSES OF DEATH

The 386 deaths in the area were accounted for as follows:

Cause	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total
Heart disease	26	41	34	101
Cancer	14	22	16	52
Intracranial vascular lesions ('stroke')	16	22	9	47
Other diseases of the circulatory system	3	11	1	15
Pneumonia	10	5	5	20
Bronchitis	5	6	4	15
Other respiratory diseases	2	7	4	13
Violent causes other than road accidents	4	8	4	16
Congenital malformations and birth injuries	2	10	—	12
Premature births	—	2	2	4
Nephritis	3	3	2	8
Road Accidents	—	3	3	6
Pulmonary tuberculosis	2	1	2	5
Digestive diseases other than ulcer	1	2	2	5
Ulcer of the stomach	1	1	—	2
Diabetes	—	2	2	4
Influenza	1	2	—	3
Acute poliomyelitis and polio- encephalitis	—	1	1	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	—	—	—
Measles	—	1	—	1
All other causes	22	18	14	54
Totals all causes	113	168	105	386

INFANT MORTALITY

District	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Live Births	Infant Mortality per 1000 live births
Abingdon Borough	6	186	32.2
Abingdon Rural District	13	444	29.2
Faringdon Rural District	2	263	7.6
Totals	21	893	23.5
England and Wales			32.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths from Puerperal Pyrexia or from accidents of childbirth.

STILL BIRTHS

District	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Per 1000 total births
Abingdon Borough	4	—	4	21.0
Abingdon Rural District	12	2	14	30.5
Faringdon Rural District	4	—	4	14.9
Totals	20	2	22	24.0
England and Wales				22.6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Following Table shows the number of cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) notified during 1949, with the 1948 figures in parenthesis.

Disease	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total All Districts
Measles	311 (37)	481 (205)	190 (139)	982 (381)
Whooping Cough	39 (12)	99 (108)	21 (68)	159 (188)
Scarlet Fever	10 (11)	19 (20)	26 (26)	55 (57)
Food poisoning	42 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	42 (—)
Erysipelas	2 (3)	8 (7)	— (—)	10 (10)
Acute Poliomyelitis	1 (—)	4 (4)	1 (—)	6 (4)
Diphtheria	1 (—)	1 (1)	1 (—)	3 (1)
Dysentery	— (44)	2 (3)	— (2)	2 (49)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1 (1)	1 (—)	— (—)	2 (—)
Acute Polioencephalitis	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Cerebral Spinal Fever	— (—)	1 (2)	— (—)	1 (2)
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	— (—)	1 (1)	— (—)	1 (1)

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases)

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, distinguishing between the more serious cases affecting the lungs (Pulmonary) and those affecting other parts of the body. The table also shows that the large majority of Pulmonary cases were aged 15—45.

Age Periods	Abingdon Borough		Abingdon Rural		Faringdon Rural		Totals (all districts)	
	Pul.	Non. Pul.	Pul.	Non. Pul.	Pul.	Non. Pul.	Pul.	Non. Pul.
0—1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1—5	2	—	2	—	1	1	5	1
5—10	—	1	2	2	—	1	2	4
10—15	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	2
15—20	3	1	3	1	2	—	8	2
20—25	4	—	7	1	2	—	13	1
25—35	6	—	10	1	2	—	18	1
35—45	2	—	4	1	2	—	8	1
45—55	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
55—65	2	—	3	—	1	—	6	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Totals	21	3	31	8	12	2	64	13
1948 Figures	(22)	(3)	(25)	(7)	(18)	(6)	(65)	(16)

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following are the figures of injections given during 1949.

District	Primary Injections	'Booster' Doses
Abingdon Borough	91	6
Abingdon Rural District	232	20
Faringdon Rural District	183	23

Since the inauguration of the National Health Service, Diphtheria Immunisation is done by General Practitioners. Every baby should be immunised between the age of 6 months and 1 year and, to be on the safe side, should also receive a booster dose 4 years later, before he begins school life.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The Berkshire County Council report a decrease during 1949 in the number of new cases seen at clinics.

Clinics are held as follows:—

Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading:

Males: Wednesday 2 p.m. and Saturday 4 p.m.

Females: Wednesday 4 p.m., Thursday 2 p.m. and Saturday 2 p.m.

Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Males: Wednesday 6 p.m., and Saturday 3 p.m.

Females: Monday 6 p.m., and Wednesday 3 p.m.

Examination and Treatment at these centres is, of course, free and confidential.

ABINGDON BOROUGH

HOUSING

Private Enterprise

During the year 8 houses were completed while the number under construction on 31st December, 1949, was 12.

Council Houses

During the year 32 houses were completed and the number under construction on 31st December was 23.

Before the year closed plans were being actively pursued to increase considerably the rate of construction during 1950.

Caravans

During the year there was only one site in the Borough with more than a single caravan. This site accommodated three vans. Scattered throughout the town were several caravans, some not requiring a license. In December 6 vans were licensed. The maximum number of occupants of caravans at any time was estimated at 20.

REFUSE

Domestic refuse is collected once weekly and trade refuse is collected twice or three times weekly, according to the requirements of the different trades, at a nominal charge depending on quantity collected. Domestic refuse is collected by means of a properly covered vehicle, but the trade collections are made with an open lorry.

Disposal of domestic refuse and clean trade refuse is by controlled tipping at a dump to the rear of the station yard, whereas offal and similar refuse is tipped separately at the sewage farm.

SALVAGE

Salvage collections are made together with domestic refuse by means of a trailer drawn behind the refuse freighter and trades' refuse is collected separately, and as required, by means of an open lorry.

The sum of £296 was received by the sale of salvage during the year.

WATER

The water supply is obtained from two sources:

- (1) Adits and wells at Wootton and Lashford Lane which supply approximately one third of the town.
- (2) Bulk supply from the Oxford City Council's Water Undertaking serving the remainder of the town.

Both supplies of water are hard, the total hardness varying from 30—32 parts per 100,000.

Abingdon is one of the only two remaining towns in England in which all water is metered to consumers. The charge is 2/- per 1,000 gallons with a minimum charge of 7/6 per half year. Actual consumption during the year averaged 5,000 gallons per head or 16.3 gallons per head per day. When this is compared with the figure of 37 gallons per head per day for 15 Towns having the same population as Abingdon we find the justification

for continuing to meter each household. If this was given up consumption would probably more than double thereby putting a strain on the system for which it is quite inadequate. However, this low consumption of water is not good, and complete re-organisation of the supply and bulk mains will have to be faced sooner or later.

SEWAGE

Sewage disposal is by open land irrigation over an area of approximately 80 acres. Although this system has worked fairly well in the past the increased pressure that new housing is placing on the system is a cause of real anxiety.

The sewerage system was not originally designed for the increased size of the town and many of the existing sewers are overloaded due to this factor and also because a considerable amount of surface water is passed into the foul sewers.

Schemes are being considered for relieving these sewers and also for alternate methods of disposal of the sewage effluent, but as yet no definite scheme has been formulated.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Dairy farms were visited during the year and 5 samples of milk were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford.

The results of these tests were as follows:

2 ungraded—result: coliform bacilli present in neither.

2 T.T.—result: coliform bacilli present in neither.

1 pasteurised—result: Phosphatase test. Number of blue units present less than 2.3.

MEAT

No. of pigs killed	5229
No. of pigs inspected	5229

All diseases except tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	43
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis9%

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	112
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	2.1%
No. of sheep inspected	4
No. of carcasses condemned	2

No legal action was taken during the year. Most of the meat condemned is returned to the Oxford Depot of the Wholesale Meat Supply Association. The remainder is buried at the Council's refuse tip.

OTHER FOODS

Efforts are continued to improve conditions and premises where food is prepared or sold but progress is slow in this, as in other sections of the sanitary inspectors' duties due to the shortage of qualified staff.

In addition to meat condemned at the slaughterhouse (bacon factory) the following foodstuffs were condemned:—

- 518 tins of various foodstuffs
- 36 cwt 108 lbs. of unpacked foodstuffs
- 6 dozen eggs
- 24 chicken
- 10 stone of fish

12 visits were paid to the 7 bakchouses in the Borough. Suggestions were made but no legal action was taken.

HEALTH EXHIBITION

A Health Week which was opened by the well-known broadcaster, Mr. Graham Hutton, was held from the 13th to 18th June, in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Berkshire County Council

The Exhibition centred around the Corn Exchange on the floor of which were erected 17 stands crowded with exhibits, many of them most attractively arranged.

The stands and those responsible for them were as follows:

1. Abingdon Hospitals—The Matrons.
2. Blood Transfusion—The Oxford Regional Service.
3. Electricity in the Home—The Southern Electricity Board.
4. Factory Welfare—The M.G. Car Co.
5. Health Bookstall and Literature
6. Health in Philately—The Chairman of the Health Committee.
7. Home Midwifery and Nursing—The District Nurses.
8. Housing—The Housing Manager.
9. Ice Cream Manufacture—Messrs. Lyons and Co.
10. Maternity and Child Welfare—The Health Visitor.
11. Meat and Other Inspections—The Sanitary Inspector.
12. Medical Loan and Library Facilities—The Red Cross.
13. Pest Control—The Ministry of Agriculture.
14. Pharmaceutical Products—W. Smith and Co., Ltd.
15. Surgical Instruments—The Longworth Scientific Co.
16. Water, Sewage and Salvage—The Borough Surveyor.
17. Welfare Foods—The Ministry of Food.

In addition there were 11 separate showings of Health films, indoor and outdoor displays of keep fit exercises, demonstrations of invalid and other cooking using gas, a presentation by the Abingdon Drama Club and two "shows", one for babies and one for children aged 1—5.

The latter were very popular and attracted 68 and 72 entries respectively. The judges were Dr. T. T. Baird, deputy Medical Officer of Health for Berkshire, Dr. Jessie Parfit, Institute of Social Medicine, Oxford, and Dr. Mackenzie-Wintle, Medical Officer of Health for Wallingford and Wantage.

All the prizes had been given by various firms and were much appreciated.

All the Secondary Schools in the Borough sent large parties of their older children in the mornings to special film shows and to conducted tours round the exhibition. There they were divided into smaller groups and had each stand demonstrated to them.

It is estimated that during the week about 4,500 persons visited the Exhibition.

HOUSING TABLE

No. of new Dwelling-Houses built:—

(1) by Local Authorities	32
(2) by Private Persons	8

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects	30
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	152
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	30

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year:—

(1) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	33
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FACTORIES ACT 1937

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of Prosecutions or written notices
1. Factories (including factory laundries)	41	27	—
2. Workshops (including workshop laundries)	25	12	—
3. Workplaces	—	—	—
Total	66	39	—

There were no defects found during the year.

The number of Outworkers in the August list was 4, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1949

No. of Different Premises visited	380
„ Inspections made	1178
„ Complaints received	77
„ Defects or Nuisances discovered	59
„ Notices served (Informal)	13
„ Notices served (Statutory)	9
„ Prosecutions	—
No. of Defects or Nuisances Abated	
As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, etc.	11
„ Drains or Cesspools	16
„ Pigs or other animals	—
„ Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughterhouses	2
„ Deficient or impure water	—
„ Unclean houses	—
„ Overcrowded houses	—
„ Polluted ditches, streams, etc.	1
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	1
„ Other defects or nuisances	42
No. of Premises disinfected	31
„ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	117
Milkshops, No. on register	4
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms, No. on register	5
Slaughter houses, No. on register	2
Milkshops, No. of inspections	6
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms, No. of inspections	12
Slaughter houses, No. of inspections	290
Piggeries	3

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HOUSING

The provision of additional housing accommodation and the improvement of sanitary conditions in existing accommodation has again been to the forefront of this Authority's efforts. A total of 239 additional families were housed in the following manner:—

(a) **Conversions.** Accommodation for 24 families was provided by means of conversions of existing housing into two or more self-contained dwellings under the authority of Building Licenses. Included in that figure are a number of temporary bungalows constructed of "short-lived" materials.

(b) **Temporary Dwellings.** The continued conversion of ex-army camps has resulted in an additional 60 families being housed in the Nisson hutted camp at Kingston Bagpuize. Each hut has been partitioned and repaired to provide a minimum standard of accommodation.

(c) **New Houses (Private Enterprise).** A further 19 permanent dwellings and 1 temporary bungalow were completed by private enterprise.

(d) **Council Houses.** A total number of 135 Council houses were completed during the year and a further 66 houses were under construction on 31st December, 1949.

These 201 houses were distributed among the following parishes:—

Parish	Completed	Under Construction 31/12/49
Appleford	6	—
Appleton	9	5
Cumnor	24	18
Drayton	3	20
Fyfield	10	8
Kennington	14	6
Kingston Bagpuize	9	6
Milton	6	—
North Hinksey	27	—
Radley	19	3
South Hinksey	—	—
Wootton	8	—
Totals	135	66

Public Health and Housing Acts

With the aid of building licensing, this Authority has given priority to the most urgent cases of severe dilapidation, and the lifting of the standards of cottage property has received special consideration. The provision of bathrooms, W.C.'s and water borne sewage schemes have been encouraged. The following is a précis of the work of this nature:—

	Housing Conversions	Additional Bedrooms	New Construction W.C.	Bathrooms
Appleton	3	—	2	1
Cumnor	—	1	—	—
Drayton	3	2	1	3
Frilford	2	—	—	—
Kennington	—	2	2	4
Kingston Bagpuize	1	6	3	8
Marcham	3	1	2	2
Milton	—	—	1	1
North Hinksey	1	—	—	2
Radley	1	1	1	1
St. Helen's Without	—	—	1	—
South Hinksey	1	1	1	1
Steventon	3	2	6	6
Sunningwell	1	—	—	—
Sutton Courtenay	1	4	2	2
Tubney	2	2	2	2
Wootton	2	—	—	3
Totals	24	22	24	36

All the properties included in the above précis have attained standards substantially close to those suggested in the Hobhouse Report.

Caravans

As a result of the continued shortage of housing accommodation, the number of caravans in the area has steadily increased to the figure of 96 at the end of the year.

Three licensed sites provide permanent accommodation for 60 caravans. the remainder are sited independently and their licenses are renewable annually. The caravans are mainly of modern design and the occupants enjoy a reasonably good standard of living, although any increase in the size of the family causes a certain amount of hardship.

A further site at Newbridge caters for holiday caravanners from May to September inclusive.

The undesirable nomadic type of caravan still remains and continues to be a problem.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The weekly kerbside collection of refuse and salvage has been maintained. Two refuse lorries are in regular use and a third is kept in reserve for maintenance purposes to ensure the smooth functioning of the system of collection.

Controlled tipping on the Council's three Tips has been rendered very difficult during the past year, due to unauthorised tipping and firing of refuse.

The following is a summary of the position existing at each tip

(1) **Cothill Tip.** The Tip is now virtually closed for the reception of refuse. Levelling of the site and providing adequate top soil cover has been completed.

(2) **Milton Tip.** Following indiscriminate dumping on the Tip by neighbouring contractors, etc., the Tip has been entirely fenced in and gates erected. A considerable amount of levelling has been carried out by means of a bulldozer and almost the whole of the site is covered with 6 to 12 inches of top soil. Tipping is now in hand on a very restricted face.

(3) **Kennington Tip.** Gates and fencing have been erected. The problem of providing satisfactory conditions for controlled tipping has been rendered more difficult by the flooding of a large section of the site. The embankment separating the Tip from a Thames borne stream has been washed away. Following consultations with the Pollution Department of the Thames Conservancy Board, this Authority has agreed to carry out certain works along the eastern perimeter of the Tip in order to prevent pollution of the watercourse.

WATER

The 18 parishes comprising the north and central areas of the district, continue to be served by a piped supply from the Oxford City Water Undertaking. Regular sampling for bacteriological and chemical analysis has continued and the results obtained show the supply to be satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

The following Table gives details of dwellings receiving water from piped supplies.

Parish	Total No. of Dwelling Houses	No. of Houses supplied with main water	No. of Houses supplied by stand pipes
Appleton	200	106	—
Besselsleigh	19	11	—
Cumnor	682	539	—
Draycott Moor	51	38	—
Frilford	46	42	—
Fyfield	79	57	—
Garford	37	14	—
Kennington	448	436	—
Kingston Bagpuize	72	41	—
Marcham	202	87	—
North Hinksey	893	872	—
Radley	255	182	—
St. Helen Without	289	244	—
South Hinksey	76	72	—
Sunningwell	230	223	—
Tubney	46	15	—
Wootton	518	461	—
Wytham	44	4	—

The above parishes comprise the area served by the Oxford City Water Undertaking.

Drayton	394	250	136
Milton	202	137	56
Steventon	292	144	157
Sutton Courtenay	410	286	120

The above parishes are supplied by the Council's bore at Sutton Courtenay and 19 new connections were made during the year.

Appleford	81	—	—
Lyford	83	—	—

The parishes of Sutton Courtenay, Milton, Drayton and Steventon continue to be supplied by water from an artesian bore in the corallian beds. Active consideration was given to the improvement of the supply in the Steventon and Milton Hill area but in view of the considerable difficulties which were met, it was decided to lay 1500 yards of new 4 inch asbestos main from a new Boosting Station sited on Steventon Hill and carried to a point opposite the Packhorse Inn. This Main is to serve 14 properties in that area. Both quality and quantity, with regard to this supply, are precarious. Under normal climatic conditions, the supply is adequate but a dry spell lays great strain on the capacity of the scheme.

A complete overhaul of the pumping equipment at the Sutton Courtenay bore has resulted in the supply being boosted to 3600 gallons per hour—an increase of 600 gallons per hour. As previously reported, the quality of the water has not been considered satisfactory. The increase of the mineral content and particularly the salinity of the water since the sinking of the bore has caused concern. The following are details of the chemical analysis made on the 7th October, 1949.

	p.p. 100,000	gr.p. gallon
Total Solids at 100 degrees C	144	101
Total Solids Ignited	133	93
Chlorides as Cl	34.5	24.1
Total Hardness	1.5	1

It will be noted from the above that the chlorides as chlorine figure is 34.5 parts per 100,000 which is a slight decrease on the figure given in the examination carried out in 1948 which gave the rating of 35 parts per 100,000. This is regarded as a temporary improvement and this Authority is taking active steps to augment the supply of water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

The main Botley and Kennington Scheme which serves the parishes of North Hinksey, Kennington and part of Cumnor continues to function satisfactorily.

All sewage is chlorinated at the main pumping station before reaching the outfall works.

In connection with the Council Housing programme, small pumping plants and disposal works have been constructed in the following parishes: Sutton Courtenay, Radley, Bayworth, Wootton (2), Appleton, Fyfield, and Cumnor and a further works is in course of construction at Drayton.

The comprehensive schemes to serve the following areas are still under consideration:—

- (1) Whitecross, Sunningwell, Wootton and part of St. Helen Without.
- (2) Appleton and part of Cumnor.
- (3) Drayton, Milton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay.

The question of providing a main drainage scheme for the village of Marcham is also under review.

The Ministry of Works plant at Kingston Bagpuize which is of service design and capable of dealing with a population of approximately 5000 has not yet been taken over by this Authority. When this plant is taken over, it is proposed to close down the major portion as the amount of the sewage would be comparatively small.

MILKS AND DAIRIES

As a result of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, and the Milk (Special Designations) Act 1949, the responsibility for the inspection of farms has been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture. The number of milk retailers who come within the jurisdiction of this Authority has, as a result been reduced to 19. Of these, 13 retailed Non-designated milk and 6 Designated milk.

FOOD PREMISES

In an effort to stimulate the Clean Food Campaign in the area, an increased number of inspections have been made of food premises of all types. In addition to advisory talks to employers and employees, lectures have been given at Denman College, where courses in Food Hygiene are given by the Federation of Women's Institutes.

Premises in the more rural areas present the greatest problem. It has become evident that it would be impracticable to demand absolute uniformity. Availability or otherwise, of the main services is the controlling factor, also the type of staff engaged, which in many cases is confined to the owner and other members of his family.

Requests for structural alterations and general improvements have been couched as appeals and, so far, this method of approach has been reasonably successful.

The majority of rural food premises require alterations, usually of a comparatively minor character, although exceptions exist. Three bake-houses have been completely replanned or renewed and one butcher's shop is being almost completely rebuilt.

Building licensing remains the controlling factor of all work, other than that of a most urgent nature.

During the course of the year, the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered, after examination which showed them to be unfit for human consumption:—

232 lbs.	Imported frozen beef	25 lbs.	Jam
3½ lbs.	Imported frozen lamb	½ lb.	Margarine
117 lbs.	Home killed beef	9 lbs.	Self-raising flour
12 lbs.	Corned beef (canned)	1 lb.	Breakfast food
23 lbs.	Bacon	840 ozs.	Milk (56 tins).

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Rodent Officer of this Authority carries out control work under the above Order by means of poison and traps.

The total number of visits to premises during the year was 5,326 and the number of dead rats and mice actually recovered 606. By the application of the Ministry of Food formula, the estimated kill for the year was 7022 destroyed. Disinfestation work was carried out at 755 premises.

The Block Control method has been in operation throughout the year and in addition 10 per cent. of sewers have been test baited with negative results.

HOUSING TABLE

No. of new Dwelling Houses built:

(1) By Local Authorities	135
(2) By Private Persons (permanent)	9
(temporary)	1

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	174
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	284
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	40
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	134

2. Remedy of Defects during the year:—

(1) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	121
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3. Action under Statutory Power during the year:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of statutory notices	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

4. Overcrowding:—

(a) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	156

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written notices	Prosecutions
1. Factories (including factory laundries)	6	1	—	—
2. Workshops (including workshop laundries)	36	15	9	—
3. Workplaces	—	—	—	—
Totals	42	16	9	—

II. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	No. of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	—	1
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	4	3	—	3
(b) Defective	2	2	—	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	3	2	1	2
Total	11	9	1	7

The number of Outworkers in the August list was 7, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK

Different premises visited	626
Inspections made	507
Complaints received	59
Defects and nuisances discovered	34
Notices served (informal)	37
Notices served (Statutory)	1
Prosecutions	—

Defects or Nuisances abated

Privies, W.C.'s, Sink Wastes	1
Drains or Cesspools	26
Pigs or other Animals	3
Cowsheds, Dairies, etc.	2
Deficient or Impure Water	3
Unclean Houses	2
Overcrowded Houses	6
Polluted Ditches, etc.	1
Other defects or nuisances	41
No. of Premises Disinfected	15
Water Samples for Analysis	42
Wells Closed	1
New Wells Sunk	2
Houses Connected to Water Main	271
Seizures Unsound Food	15
Closets Replaced by W.C.'s	24
No. of Milkshops on Register	2
Milkshops, Inspections	2
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms on Register	19
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms Inspected	9
Piggeries. No. of Inspections	2
Milk Samples	8

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HOUSING

During the year the number of Council Houses completed was 36 and those under construction on 31st December, 1949, numbered 45.

The number built by Private Enterprise was 6, while 12 more were in course of erection at the end of the year.

These 99 houses were distributed among the following parishes:—

Parish	COUNCIL HOUSES		PRIVATE ENTERPRISE	
	Completed	Under Construc- tion 31.12.49	Completed	Under Con- struction 31.12.49
Ashbury	4	—	—	1
Buckland	—	—	1	—
Compton Beauchamp	—	—	—	1
Faringdon	20	25	1	2
Fernham	4	—	—	—
Great Coxwell	—	—	1	—
Hinton Waldrist	—	—	—	3
Kingston Lisle	—	8	—	—
Little Coxwell	—	—	1	—
Pusey	—	—	2	—
Shellingford	—	2	—	—
Shrivenham	4	—	—	4
Stanford	4	4	—	—
Uffington	—	6	—	1
Total	36	45	6	12

Caravans

Seven sites were used for camping purposes during the year.

One site for five caravans is licensed.

The estimated maximum number of campers resident at one time during the season was forty three persons.

WATER

Quality

The piped water supplies within the area maintained a reasonable quality throughout the year, while the water from private wells was generally unsatisfactory.

Plumbo-solvent action

The main water supplies in the district are "hard" and no plumbo-solvent action is experienced.

Quantity

During 1949 the water supply from all piped sources was adequate but the water supply from wells was seriously depleted owing to the dry spell. A serious shortage occurred in the parish of Charney Bassett from late September until early November, and it was found necessary to organise an emergency supply.

Examinations.

The following piped supplies exist in the district:—

- *Ashdown Park Borehole—supplies Shrivenham, Bourton, Ashbury, Compton Beauchamp, Longcot and Watchfield.
- *Wicklesham Borehole—supplies Faringdon and Little Coxwell.
- *Kingston Lisle (ex Wantage R.D.C. Mains).
Uffington and Baulking.
Woolstone (private supply).
Shellingford (private supply).
- *Buscot and Eaton Hastings (private supply).
- *Buckland (private supply).

The supplies marked * are chlorinated, the remainder not being treated.

Routine bacteriological examinations were made as follows:—

Supply	No. of Samples	Good	Contaminated	
			Slight	Heavy
Ashdown Park	4	4	—	—
Wicklesham	4	4	—	—
Kingston Lisle	4	3	1	—
Uffington and Baulking	4	1	1	2
Woolstone	4	2	—	2
Shellingford	4	2	—	2
Buscot and E. Hastings	4	1	—	3
Buckland	8	4	—	4
Totals	36	21	2	13

At Uffington and Baulking boiling notices remained in force and work was commenced on the laying of new mains from Fernham to supply the villages from Ashdown Park.

The Woolstone supply is obtained from springs in the White Horse Hill and after cleaning out the catchment chamber the supply again became satisfactory.

At Buscot and Eaton Hastings a new chlorinator has been installed, but the results still show considerable fluctuation, and in consequence boiling notices have been in force.

At Buckland a new chlorinator has been installed but after obtaining bad samples it was found that the 'chloros' in use had deteriorated and in consequence adequate chlorination was not being carried out. A new supply was obtained and no further bad results have been noted.

Details of dwellings receiving water from piped supplies:

Parish	No.	Houses		No.	Approx. Population	
		Direct Supply	Standpipe		Direct Supply	Standpipe
Ashbury	170	104	49	546	336	157
Baulking	38	10	27	127	35	85
Bourton	74	24	48	400	123	270
Buckland	177	11	4	508	31	11
Buscot	85	10	50	271	30	150
Charney Bassett	51	—	—	165	—	—
Coleshill	73	—	—	241	—	—
Compton Beau.	30	23	2	96	77	6
Coxwell, Great	77	—	—	226	—	—
Coxwell, Little	67	11	24	248	39	94
Eaton Hastings	35	9	14	139	35	55
Faringdon	837	604	82	3318	2396	327
Fernham	53	30	6	155	91	21
Hatford	23	—	—	80	—	—
Hinton Waldrist	77	4	—	257	11	—
Kingston Lisle	64	20	31	223	67	111
Longcot	88	62	14	312	236	47
Longworth	157	—	—	531	—	—
Pusey	21	—	—	115	—	—
Shellingford	54	10	28	143	33	80
Shrivenham	309	198	51	953	527	178
Stanford	281	40	—	809	133	—
Uffington	153	70	66	474	211	200
Watchfield	298	238	30	687	453	84
Woolstone	40	5	20	118	16	65
Totals	3332	1483	546	11160	4820	1941

During the year the number of houses connected with a direct supply of water was 155. Of these, 60 were formerly dependent on standpipes, 53 on wells and the remaining 42 were new houses.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Work was commenced on providing sewerage schemes for the parishes of Fernham and Uffington and it is hoped they will be completed during 1950—51.

Scavenging

There has been no change in the system of collection and disposal of refuse during the year. The salvage of waste paper was continued in spite of the reduced revenue therefrom. The total sum obtained through the sale of salvage in 1949 was £172 15s. 3d.

Milk

No action was taken in respect of improvement to farms in view of the transfer of this responsibility to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Twenty-one samples of milk were taken and examined for tubercle bacilli, all of which were proved negative. These samples were taken from producers of raw non-designated milk only.

Meat

The following meat was condemned:—

Beef 167 lbs.; Tinned Meat 103 lbs.; Lambs' Livers 7 lbs.

No legal action was taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

All condemned meat is returned to the Ministry of Food for disposal.

Other Foods

The following other foods were condemned:—

Dried Eggs 3 lbs.; Tinned Fish 8 lbs.; Other Tinned Food 116 lbs.;

Butter 10 lbs.; Haizlett 12 lbs.; Sponge Pudding Mixture 54 lbs.

Number of inspections carried out on food shops 26

Number of inspections carried out on stalls and vehicles 4

Number of inspections carried out on cafes and inns 37

Number of notices served 11

Number of notices complied with 7

Slaughter-houses and Butchers' shops

There are no Slaughter-houses at present in use in this district.

Number of inspections of shops 35

Number of informal Notices served 8

Number of Informal Notices complied with 7

Bakehouses

Number in district 10

Number of inspections 26

Defects found and remedied 8

HOUSING TABLE

No. of new Dwelling houses built:—

(1) By Local Authorities	36
(2) By Private Persons	6

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	75
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	83
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	36
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	39

2. Remedy of Defects during the year:—

(1) Number of defective dwelling houses in which defects were remedied in consequence of informal action	73
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

Demolition Orders made in respect of Dwelling houses	7
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4. Overcrowding

(a) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	14

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written notices	Prosecutions
1. Factories (including factory laundries)	25	16	—	—
2. Workshops (including workshop laundries)	32	25	—	—
3. Workplaces	4	4	—	—
Total	61	45	—	—

The number of defects found and remedied during the year was 11. They were in respect of want of cleanliness (7) and defective sanitary conveniences (4).

There were no outworkers in the district.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1949

No. of Different Premises visited	1491
.. Inspections made	825
.. Complaints received	80
.. Defects or Nuisances discovered	192
.. Notices served (Informal)	83
.. Notices served (Statutory)	7
.. Prosecutions	—
No. of Defects or Nuisances Abated	
As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink Wastes, etc.	16
.. Drains or Cesspools	31
.. Pigs or other animals	5
.. Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughterhouses	3
.. Deficient or impure water	39
.. Unclean Houses	4
.. Overcrowded houses	11
.. Polluted ditches, streams, etc.	7
.. Insanitary accumulations or deposits	3
.. Other defects or nuisances	46
No. of Premises disinfected	9
.. Water samples taken for analysis	72
.. Wells closed	11
.. Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	3
.. New Wells sunk	2
.. Houses connected with water mains	39
.. Water Certificates granted	1
.. Seizures or surrender of unsound or diseased food	93
.. Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	12
Milkshops, No. on register	3
Milkshops, No. of Inspections	11
Slaughter-houses, No. of Inspections	21
Piggeries, No. of Inspections	8

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